



# First Mennonite Church

## Midweek E-Newsletter

November 11, 2020

### From Pastor Tom

Introducing . . . Voices Together #209, "We Dream of a Turning"

This past Sunday all the hymns "we" (that is, the quartet of Holly, Doug, Pam, and me) sang were from the purple songbook, and are included in *Voices Together*, the new hymnal which will be arriving soon. I thought I would introduce you to one of those hymns/songs, "We Dream of a Turning," which we sang as the closing song. The text was written by Adam M. L. Tice (I frankly don't know what the "M. L." stand for but could try to find out!). Adam has been on the Mennonite Worship and Song Collection Committee, where I have learned to know him. In addition to him being the Text Editor for the project, Adam is a gifted hymn text writer who has emerged since the publication of *Hymnal: A Worship Book* as one of the top writers not just within Mennonite Church USA but far beyond, having been published in numerous other denominational hymnals and now being represented by GIA, one of the largest publishers of Christian music in the world. It should come as no surprise that, despite the selection process being completely anonymized, Adam will have seventeen texts in *Voices Together*.

"We Dream of a Turning" is a beautiful example of Tice's skill as a text writer. Following is the complete text:

#### Verse 1

We dream of a turning from ages of wrong, earth to Eden restored, and our pardon.  
Like Eve and Adam, join in a story and a song, as we wander with God through the garden.

#### Refrain

Where true peace is shining as hate rolls away, see, God's bright new creation is gleaming.  
The morning rays that dawn on our weary, waking day bring a hope far beyond all our dreaming.

#### Verse 2

We dream of a feast where there's no one outside, turned away due to difference or label,  
When all the weapons forged to destroy or to divide turn to rust far from God's holy table.

#### Verse 3

We dream of a mountain where no harm is done, where the wolf and the lamb lie together.  
A little child shall dance, leading all the creatures on, as we join hand to hoof, claw and feather!

The text is rich in biblical imagery, drawing in particular from Genesis 1-2, and Isaiah 11, and resonating with key passages like Revelation 21. I chose the hymn as the Hymn of Response following my sermon, and even as the quartet sang it, I was struck by how well it echoed themes from my sermon, including the "weary, waking day" we have experienced and are still experiencing during this election season, "the weapons forged to destroy or to divide" evoking not just actual armaments used in both warfare and street violence, but also words used so often in recent months that have bred such stark political and religious polarization in our country. While it is unfortunate that these themes aren't going to disappear anytime soon, ensuring the hymn's relevance in the coming years, the overriding theme of hope (delightfully supported by the Scottish hymn tune *Loch Lomond*) lifts singer and worshipper above daily despair to the joy of God's coming kingdom. Indeed, while the hymn's title was determined by the hymnal's default practice of using first lines, I can hardly think of a more effective title than "We Dream of a Turning." Tice's delight in playful, even childlike wording and imagery is on full display at the end of Verse 3; one can hardly sing that without a smile! I am truly excited to have this text included in *Voices Together*, where it will help shape Anabaptist-Mennonite theology and worship for years to come. Somehow, I suspect it will see a lot of use at First Mennonite Church – Hillsboro!

## Ways to Help

- ☞ **Change the world with one dollar a day challenge.** Marion County Core Community is looking for 140 brave and generous people who will pledge \$1 a day or \$30 a month for one year. \$1 a day can solve poverty by inviting families experiencing poverty to a safe place where their voices are heard, they are treated with honor and dignity as they unpack their lives, gain new relationships and build resources. Text or call Mark Rogers @ 620-877-0899. All gifts are tax deductible.

## Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Tabor College Choirs** perform benefit concert for the Hillsboro Area Ministerial Alliance on November 15, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. An offering will be taken and non-perishable food items collected. The concert is free, but reserved tickets are required. Livestream is available during the performance at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7MH6npTbF>
- ☞ **On November 22 at 4 pm**, Rainbow Mennonite Church of Kansas City, KS, will host an ordination service in honor of Roseann Penner Kaufman, Minister of Music and Worship. Please [click here](#) for how to participate, including sending well wishes which will be sewed into an ordination stole for Rosi.
- ☞ **Camp Mennoscah** is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size! A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Or maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve! You are welcome here!
- ☞ **Looking for your next opportunity to come to Camp Mennoscah?** The Christmas Gathering is tentatively being planned as an outdoor event on Saturday, December 12 at 2:30pm. Details forthcoming.
- ☞ **The KIPCOR Film Series at Bethel College continues with *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code***, a multiple-award-winning documentary that focuses on the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave to illustrate how minorities and low-income citizens suffer the most negative impact from natural disasters. The film is an indictment of our nation's disaster preparedness, and forges a link between extreme weather, extreme disparity (income and other) and extreme racism. Note that watching the film and participating in the talk-back are two distinct, separate events. You must view the film between Nov. 8 and Nov. 14, using this link: <https://vimeo.com/bullfrogfilms/kipcor-cooked>; and password: KC30p0 (KC3-zero-p-zero). Then on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m., KIPCOR will host a virtual discussion of the film with Christy Miller Hesed, Hesston, a postdoctoral associate in environmental anthropology at the University of Maryland (Christy and her family attend Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton). To register for the talk-back, go to [kipcor.org](http://kipcor.org), click on the event, and scroll down to the registration link. The Zoom link will be sent Nov. 13; advance registration is required for the talk-back.
- ☞ **Everence** will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step*, as a webinar on Monday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar is free. Please register by contacting our office at 877-467-7294, 316-283-3800 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com). *\*Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.*
- ☞ **Global Orphan Fundraiser** is sponsoring the Ball Brothers at Memorial Hall on Tuesday, December 1. They are a gospel singing group that speaks to all ages. You can check out their hit song, "It's all about the Cross," on YouTube. Check out the poster in the hallway for more information. Tickets are \$20, with group rates available.
- ☞ **Now on display in the Regier Art Gallery, Luyken Fine Arts Center, at Bethel College: "Noir + More,"** recent work by Denise Brueggeman. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Please note that face coverings must be worn and physical distancing observed on the Bethel campus.
- ☞ **Hanging of the Greens:** In anticipation of the Season of Advent, "Hanging of the Greens" plans are in place. In light of our commitment to care for each other's safety and wellbeing, we are grateful for a small group of folks willing to create spaces of worship and beauty in and around our church on behalf of all of us. Bob and Judy Jantz, and Cheryl and Marlin Bartel will give direction to a small team instead of scheduling a congregational hanging of the greens event. On Nov. 29, Advent Sunday I, expect to see the stable in our sanctuary, the manger scene on our lawn, and simple signs of "God With Us" throughout the church. Especially notice the lanterns and candles. As we travel through Advent, may we lift our faces towards the Light. The Light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.

## Other Announcements

- ☞ **Service Adventure** is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term! Grow in leadership and faith as you spend a year serving and living in community with others your age and with unit leaders. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](https://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure) to learn more!
- ☞ **Derek Hamm, Pastor Tom and Maura** have been working hard getting a new website ready to launch very soon. We can't wait for you to see it!

## Weekly Inspirational/Encouraging Bible Verse(s)

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. —John 13:35 NLT